

St Ethelbert's RCP School

January 2020



Dear Parents,
 During this half term, the children have been very busy studying their new class topics. You can find details of these on our school website, and of course, see some of the children's activities via our Facebook page.
 Just to remind you that school will close at **3p.m. on Friday 14th February** for one week's half term. School will reopen at **8.50a.m. on Monday 24th February.**

Thank you for your continued support,
 M. Messham
 Headteacher

B.O.B Boxes

We have an exciting new project to share with our community. Last Tuesday, the whole school attended an assembly, presented by Steve Burrowes from Salford Diocese. He talked to the children about the importance of taking care of our common home – the world. He then worked with the GIFT team, making B.O.B. (Bat or Bird) boxes, which can be easily assembled from a kit. These can then be put up in the local area to attract wildlife. On **March 10th**, parents and grandparents will be able to come into school at a convenient time to make a B.O.B. Box with their child / children. The boxes will cost £10 - £2.50 of each sale will be sent back to the Diocese so that more kits can be made. The other £7.50 will be kept by school to spend on items from the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue. This will help us to transform the lives of communities across the other side of the world. For example, if we can sell 100 boxes, then a village will have a new water supply; this means that girls will not have to walk 10-15 miles to collect water and instead will be able to go to school. We hope that as many families as possible will be able to support this initiative, particularly as the project will run through Lent. Look out for further information so you can book your slot!



Attendance Champions

- w.c. 6th January – Y3 & Y6 – 98% full attendance
- w.c. 13th January- Y2 & Y4 – 99% full attendance
- w.c. 20th January – Y6 - 98% full attendance
- w.c. 27th January -Y3 & Y6 – 98% full attendance



Dates for your Diary

February

- Tuesday 4th** - Y1 assembly
- Tuesday 4th** – Y3/4 Mass
- Wednesday 12th** – Valentine's Disco
- Friday 14th** – Certificate Assembly

School closes for one week's half term at 3pm on Friday 14th February and reopens on Monday 24th February at 8.50a.m.

Wednesday 26th – Ash Wednesday

Thursday 27th – Family Refreshments at 3pm

Friday 28th – Y5/6 Mass

March

Tuesday 3rd – Reception trip to Imagine That!

Thursday 5th – Y5 trip to Planetarium

Tuesday 10th- BOB Box Day

Friday 13th – Y1/2 Mass

Tuesday 17th – Reception assembly

Wednesday 18th – Y4 assembly

Thursday 19th – First Reconciliation for Y3 pupils – 7pm in church

Friday 20th – Reception Mass

Tuesday 24th – Y5 taster morning at MSJ

Wednesday 25th - Parents' Evening

Tuesday 31st – Third World Tea Party (Y3-Y6)

April:

Wednesday 1st – Stations of the Cross (Y5) – 10am in church

Thursday 2nd – Easter Bonnet Parade

Friday 3rd – End of term Mass

Friday 3rd – Certificate assembly & Easter Egg Raffle

School closes at 2pm on Friday 3rd April for the Easter break and reopens on Tuesday 14th April at 8.50a.m.



Attendance

Each half term, I carry out a detailed analysis of attendance data so that any issues can be identified and addressed. Letters are sent to the parents of any child whose overall attendance is below 90%. This is the government's threshold where children are considered to be persistent absentees. The letters are not meant to be a criticism – any child can be ill and quite rightly should stay at home to get better; the letters merely serve to highlight low levels of attendance and a need to ensure that the child comes to school regularly when they are well. Poor attendance has a negative impact on learning, with children being at a disadvantage, as they miss key concepts and fall behind.

The school has robust procedures for monitoring attendance. We ask that you ring school if your child is going to be absent. Please note that keeping your child off school because you are ill is not a valid reason. I would also like to remind you that the law says I am unable to authorise holidays in term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. However, school still needs to know if you are going away; firstly, as a matter of courtesy, and secondly, for safeguarding purposes. Staff will make a home visit if a child is absent for any length of time; if you haven't informed us that you are on holiday, then the child is technically missing and the Local Authority can become involved. Please be up front about your holiday plans; we have had some cases where children have been told to tell staff they have been ill, when this has clearly not been the case. That is not the right example to be setting the children. Please also note, that any child who has ten days unauthorised absence, whether for a holiday or other reasons, will be issued with a penalty notice from the Council and will be required to pay a fine. A big thank you to all those many parents who ensure that their children come to school regularly and on time. This does not go unnoticed.

January Birthdays

Nursery: Abdur-Rahman; Finnley

Reception: Alice; Jacob

Y1: Tami

Y2: Aaira Musa; Fathima

Y3: Daniel; Faith; Ariane

Y4: Blake; Joanna; Valerie

Y5: Lacen; Libby



Happy Birthday to you all!

Curriculum News

Our children enjoy a wide and varied curriculum, both in and out of school. In January, the following activities took place:

- Sean Perkins, a local author, spent time in each year group from Reception to Y3, to talk about his job and his book '*Oscar and Ben*'
- A group of Y5 Gifted and Talented pupils have visited Mount St. Joseph, taking part in a range of challenging activities in different subject areas



Children's Mental Health Week takes place during the week of the 3rd February. Our children will participate in a range of activities which will promote positive mental health and well-being. Thursday 6th February will be our special Pyjama Day when there will be focus on the importance of sleep and good bedtime routines.

A whole day on e-safety and digital citizenship will take place on 10th February. I know many parents have voiced their concerns to me about the amount of hours their children are spending online and the effect this is having on their concentration in school. Please try to limit your child's online activity – if this is more than two hours a day, then this is far too much.



Valentine's Disco

Wednesday 12th February

(featuring the Sponsored Cheesy Dance-athon!)

Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2
5.00-6.30p.m.

Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6
7.00-8.30 p.m.

Tickets £3 each

On Sale from 5th February



Statutory Tests

Thank you to all those Y6 parents who attended the recent SATs information meetings. The dates of the 2020 national tests for Y1, 2 and 6 are listed below. It is vital that all children from these year groups are in school during this period.

Y1 Phonics Screening Check – 8th – 12th June

KS1 SATs for all year 2 pupils – these will take place throughout the month of May

KS2 SATs (Y6):

Monday 11th May – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Test

Tuesday 12th May – Reading Test

Wednesday 13th May – Maths Paper 1 & Paper 2

Thursday 14th May – Maths Paper 3